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# Aaron Reardon

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**Aaron Reardon** is an American politician and who is the Executive of **Snohomish County** in **Washington State**. Reardon was re-elected to a third consecutive term in November 2011.<sup>[1]</sup> First elected to the **County Executive** post in 2003, Reardon was sworn in as the youngest serving County Executive in America.<sup>[2]</sup> Reardon is a Democrat.

Prior to serving as Snohomish County Executive, Reardon served as a **Washington State Senator** and a member of the state **House of Representatives**. He holds a double degree in **political science** and **social science** with a focus in **public administration** and **economics** from **Central Washington University**. Reardon is married to Kate Reardon and lives in **Everett**, **Washington** with his wife and two children.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Personal life

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Aaron Reardon speaks at his annual state of the county address in 2009

Reardon traces his interest in politics to his youth, during which he lived in a trailer with his single mother in Everett, WA. Reardon has stated that his mother was dedicated to insuring that his life was better than hers, and that she taught him current events by reading the paper with him every day.<sup>[3]</sup>

While reading the paper with his mother in 1981, Reardon came across a story that detailed how President **Ronald Reagan** had, in an effort to cut spending on public school subsidized lunch programs, declared that ketchup could be considered a vegetable and counted towards daily nutritional requirements. Reardon's mother suggested that he write his **Congressman** to express his feelings.<sup>[4]</sup> Reardon wrote then Congressman **Al Swift** and received a written response and a call from a Swift staffer to discuss Reardon's concerns. Reardon has stated that this interaction led him to believe that government could be used to change things for good.<sup>[5]</sup>

Reardon attended Mariner High School in Everett and was active in athletics. He lettered in football, rugby and swimming. His interest in competitive swimming led him to attend **Central Washington University**, but his swim career ended two months after his arrival - he took a political science course during his first semester and was captivated. Reardon continued to study politics and added a second major in economics. Reardon left Central with dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in Economics and Social-Science Public Administration.<sup>[6]</sup> While at Central Washington University, Reardon volunteered on multiple statewide and local **Democratic** campaigns. His experience running campaigns landed him a paid post-graduate position with the Downtown Seattle Association where he lobbied on behalf of **Seattle** businesses.<sup>[7]</sup>

## Political campaigns

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- In 1998, at 27 years of age, Reardon entered and won the election for a vacant State House of Representatives position representing a legislative district located in his hometown of Everett. Reardon was re-elected in 2000, and vacated the seat in 2002 to pursue a **United States Senate** position.<sup>[8][9]</sup>
- In 2002, Reardon won election to the 38th Legislative District Senate seat, garnering 65 percent of the vote.<sup>[10]</sup>
- In 2003, Reardon won a contested three-way election for the Snohomish County Executive position garnering 52 percent of the vote in the General election.<sup>[11]</sup> Reardon defeated Democrat Kevin Quigley in a September Primary Election,<sup>[12]</sup> campaigning on a platform that called for decreasing taxes while implementing a long-term strategic growth plan specific to Snohomish County.<sup>[6]</sup> The Primary campaign was marred by accusations of dirty politics from both Reardon and Quigley.<sup>[13]</sup>
- In 2007, Reardon retained his seat as County Executive defeating **Republican** Jack Turk. Reardon received 65 percent of the popular vote.<sup>[14]</sup>
- In 2011, Reardon won a third term as County Executive, dispatching Republican Mike Hope, a Seattle police officer and a current Washington State Legislator.<sup>[1]</sup>

## References

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- ↑ *<sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup>* "Reardon wins third term"  Edmonds Patch. Retrieved 21 August 2012.
- ↑ *<sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup>* "Profile: Snohomish County Executive"  Snohomish County. Retrieved 21 August 2012.
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- ↑ *"Best Dreamy Politician 2008"*  *Seattle Weekly*. Retrieved 21 August 2012. "Then-president Ronald Reagan had just announced that ketchup could be considered a vegetable in public schools looking to cut the cost of providing subsidized meals to kids like 10-year-old Reardon. "It really bothered me," he says."
- ↑ *"Best Dreamy Politician 2008"*  *Seattle Weekly*. Retrieved 21 August 2012. "it made the young Reardon believe you could actually use government to change things for good"
- ↑ *<sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup>* Reardon, Aaron. "Seattle Times Election Bio"  Retrieved 21 August 2012.
- ↑ *"2008 Award Best Dreamy Politician"*  *Seattle Weekly*. Retrieved 21 August 2012.
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